

Note: The following is an excerpt of an editorial in The Herald of Everett, Washington. For more on this, and other news and commentary from The Herald, see the newspaper's website: www.heraldnet.com.

Heart Gallery photos pull all the right strings

(Everett) Herald Editorial, March 3, 2005

While many 16-year-old girls are focused on dances and dates, Sharaya's goal is to be working in a "CSI-type job" in 10 years and paying off her college loans - that and to have a "forever family" who cares enough to adopt her and help her reach those goals.

Browse The Heart Gallery photos, a traveling exhibit on display now in Everett, and the phrase "forever family" will come up more than once. Instead of babies wanna-be parents can adopt and raise from infancy, viewers will find older kids and teens who already know how to talk and already know what they think and like. They'll also find plenty of other people, young and old, in need of a volunteer's time and energy.

The point of the traveling photography exhibit, organized by the state Department of Social and Health Services, is simple: encourage people to volunteer in whatever they can to help these children, the disabled and older people.

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